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CLAIMS:

- 5 What is claimed is:
 - 1. A method of diagnosing network protocol errors using an XML document comprising the steps of:
- capturing data packets exchanged over a network communications line;
- generating an XML document using the captured data packets; and
 - diagnosing the network protocol errors using the XML document.
- 20 2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of diagnosing including the step of using XML-based analysis mechanism.
- 3. The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of diagnosing including the step of using semantic analysis.
 - 4. The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of diagnosing including the step of passing the XML document through a parser.
 - 5. The method of Claim 4 wherein the data packets are captured through a topdump.

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- 6. The method of Claim 5 wherein the data packets are captured through a sniffer.
- 5 7. The method of Claim 6 wherein the step of diagnosing including the step of visually inspecting the XML document.
- 8. A computer program product on a computer readable media for diagnosing network protocol errors using an XML document comprising:

code means for capturing data packets exchanged over a network communications line;

code means for generating an XML document using the captured data packets; and

code means for diagnosing the network protocol errors using the XML document.

- 9. The computer program product of Claim 8 wherein the code means for diagnosing includes code means for using XML-based analysis mechanism.
- 10. The computer program product of Claim 8 wherein the code means for diagnosing includes code means for using semantic analysis.
- 30 11. The computer program product of Claim 8 wherein the diagnosing code means includes code means for parsing the XML document through a parser.

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- 12. The computer program product of Claim 11 wherein the data packets are captured through a topdump.
- 5 13. The computer program product of Claim 12 wherein the data packets are captured through a sniffer.
 - 14. The computer program product of Claim 13 wherein the step of diagnosing including the step of visually inspecting the XML document.
 - 15. An apparatus for diagnosing network protocol errors using an XML document comprising:
- means for capturing data packets exchanged over a network communications line;

means for generating an XML document using the captured data packets; and

means for diagnosing the network protocol errors using the XML document.

- 16. The apparatus of Claim 15 wherein the means for diagnosing includes means for using XML-based analysis mechanism.
 - 17. The apparatus of Claim 15 the means for diagnosing including means for using semantic analysis.

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- 18. The apparatus of Claim 15 wherein the diagnosing means includes means for passing the XML document through a parser.
- 5 19. The apparatus of Claim 18 wherein the data packets are captured through a topdump.
 - 20. The apparatus of Claim 19 wherein the data packets are captured through a sniffer.
 - 21. The apparatus of Claim 20 wherein the means for diagnosing including means for visually inspecting the XML document.
- 15 22. A computer system for diagnosing network protocol errors using an XML document comprising:

at least one memory device for storing code data; and

- at least one processor for processing the code data to capture data packets exchanged over a network communications line, to generate an XML document using the captured data packets, and to diagnose the network protocol errors using the XML document.
 - 23. The computer system of Claim 22 wherein the processor further processes the code data to use XML-based analysis mechanism.
- 30 24. The computer system of Claim 22 wherein the processor further processes the code data to use semantic analysis.

- 25. The computer system of Claim 22 wherein diagnosing the network protocol errors includes passing the XML document through a parser.
- 26. The computer system of Claim 25 wherein the data packets are captured through a topdump.
- 27. The computer system of Claim 26 wherein the data packets are captured through a sniffer.
 - 28. The computer system of Claim 27 wherein diagnosing the network protocol errors includes visually inspecting the XML document.

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